

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 04750 270732Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 SS-15 SSO-00 /026 W
-----092187 270741Z /21 R
O 270716Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4128

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 4750

STADIS //////////////////////////////////////

FOR NEA/ARN DRAPER FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, SY, US
SUBJECT: SYRIAN JEWRY

REF: STATE 174966

1. ONLY CHANGE WE HAVE TO SUGGEST IN YOUR PROPOSED
ANSWER IS TO SAY, "THIS IS, WE UNDERSTAND, FULLY IN ACCORD
WITH SYRIAN LAWS AND CUSTOMS." WE ARE STILL NOT SURE
EXACTLY TO WHAT EXTENT AND IN WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES SYRIAN LAW
PERMITS PROXY MARRIAGE.

2. AP STRINGER HAS TOLD US SARG MININFO HAS OFFERED
ASSISTANCE TO AP IN COVERING STORY INCLUDING ARRANGING
INTERVIEWS WITH TOUTAH AND SOME OF THE GIRLS. AP CORRESPON-
DENT LUDDINGTON IS COMING FROM BEIRUT TODAY FOR THAT PURPOSE.
STRINGER HAS ASKED EMBASSY TO PROVIDE BACKGROUND. WE INTEND
TO SEE HOW MUCH SARG IS DOING FOR THEM BEFORE AGREEING.
IF SYRIANS THEMSELVES WISH PUBLICITY, PRINCIPAL POINT WE
WILL MAKE IS THAT ASSAD HAS RECOGNIZED THIS HUMANITARIAN
PROBLEM AND WE HOPE HIS GENEROUS ATTITUDE WILL CONTINUE
AS OTHER MARRIAGES ARE ARRANGED WITH AMERICAN CITIZENS
FOR THE UP TO 500 JEWISH WOMEN WHO CANNOT FIND JEWISH
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PAGE 02 DAMASC 04750 270732Z

HUSBANDS IN SYRIA.
MURPHY

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: JEWS, WOMEN, PRESS RELEASES, EXIT PERMITS, MARRIAGES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977DAMASC04750
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770267-0626
Format: TEL
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770715/aaaaampn.tel
Line Count: 57
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 91058663-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 77 STATE 174966
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1738211
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SYRIAN JEWRY
TAGS: PINS, SOPN, SOCI, SY, US, ASSOCIATED PRESS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/91058663-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009